(c) Government has approved setting up of market-cum-flower auction centre for export of flowers at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida. Further, six Agri Export Zones (AEZ) for flowers have been notified by the Government in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Uttaranchal to increase production and export of floriculture products.

Screening Committee for deputation to Singapore

2701. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Screening Committee for deputation to Singapore for participation in Second Round of Negotiations on the Indo-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) held on the 1st to 3rd July, 2003 has taken a number of decisions;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed in the above meeting and the delegations participated therein;

(c) the decisions taken so far by CECA on various issues; and

(d) how many meetings have been held so far, date-wise and venue-wise and when the next meeting has been fixed with the details of the subjects, Ministry-wise, likely to be included in CECA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) Screening Committee had decided to depute to Singapore a delegation of 25 Government members and 4 outsiders for the second round of negotiations on India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) which were held there from 1-3 July, 2003.

(b) A number of subjects including investment facilitation, investment dialogue, investment framework, insurance and insurance related services, India-Singapore investment fund, financial services, legal and dispute settlement issues, trade in goods, rules of origin, cooperation in customs, air services, tourism and culture; trade in services and mutual recognition agreement in various sectors, etc. were discussed during the second round of negotiations. Representatives from the concerned Ministries/ Departments/Agencies participated in the Negotiations.

(c) and (d) The negotiations on CECA are going on. Two rounds of negotiations, first in New Delhi from 27-28 May, 2003 and second in Singapore from 1-3 July, 2003, have been held so far. The third round is scheduled for 16-18 August, 2003 in New Delhi where a number of subjects relating to various aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries would be discussed between the representatives from the respective Ministries/Departments/Agencies of the two countries.

Farm export subsidies

2702. DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether European Union has stuck to its stand that the farm export subsidies can not be reduced and to push forward proposals for the negotiations on the possible multilateral agreements on investment;

(b) if so, whether recently at Nyon near Geneva, a meeting was held with the developing countries on agriculture and the issues of special products, special safeguard measures and subsidies discussed;

(c) whether Government have decided to accord top priority to increase market access for products of dairy, cereals, sugar, meat, poultry, fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to see that WTO recommendations are fully met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) In the on-going negotiations on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture, the European Communities (EC) favour a more gradual reduction in export subsidies than that being sought by major agricultural products' exporting countries, and also by developing countries like India. They have, moreover, linked their flexibility on support and protection in the farm sector with incorporation of non-trade concerns, such as animal welfare and food safety, in the negotiations. The EC continues to maintain that disciplines on trade and investment should be negotiated in the WTO.

(b) Along with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India had co-sponsored a meeting of like-minded developing